

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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E.O. 11652: GDS

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SUBJECT: ASSEMBLY INTERPELLATIONS CONTINUE

REF: A SEOUL 4148; B SEOUL 5163 C SEOUL 4654

1. NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CONTINUED INTERPELLATIONS EVENING AUGUST 7 ON DIPLOMACY AND NATIONAL SECURITY AND MORNING AUGUST 8 BEGAN INTERPELLATION ON ECONOMY.

2. AUGUST 8 PRESS GAVE EXTENSIVE COVERAGE TO ASSEMBLY SESSION, EMPHASIZING THAT GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES NECESSARY FOR STABILITY. PRIME MINISTER PROMISED THAT EMERGENCY MEASURES WOULD NOT BE RETAINED FOR MUCH LONGER IF CERTAIN "QUESTIONS" CAN BE SETTLED. (REF B).

3. IN AUGUST 8 FAREWELL CALL BY AMBASSADOR, PRIME MINISTER RECONFIRMED PLANS FOR REPEAL OF EMERGENCY MEASURES (REF A). MEASURES NO. 1 AND 1/ ARE STILL TO BE LIFTED BEFORE SEPTEMBER ASSEMBLY SESSION; NO 3 WILL BE REPLACED BY NEW LEGISLATION, AND 4 WILL BE LIFTED LATER IN THE FALL.)

4. NDP ASSEMBLYMEN CHONG HON-CHU AND KIM SU-HAN
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MAINTAINED CRITICAL TONE SET BY KIM WON-MAN EARLIER IN INTERPELLATION. CHONG QUESTIONED NECESSITY OF EMERGENCY

MEASURES AND COURTS MARTIAL FOR MAINTAINING STABILITY IN ROK. HE MAINTAINED THAT RECENT CRITICISM OF ROKG FROM US AND JAPAN IS REFLECTION OF NATURAL WORRY ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEM IN KOREA. CHONG STRESSED THAT ROK MUST STRENGTHEN TIES WITH US AND JAPAN NOT WEAKEN THEM. HE CALLED ON GOVERNMENT TO AT LEAST TRANSFER EMERGENCY MEASURE CASES FROM MILITARY TO REGULAR CIVILIAN COURTS. KIM SU-HAN ATTACKED ROKG OVER ARREST OF LAWYER KANG SIN-OK, COURT MARTIAL OF RELIGIOUS AND INTELLECTUAL LEADERS, AND TRIAL OF FORMER ROK PRESIDENT YUN PO-SON. KIM SAID THT "EXTREME REPRESSION COULD BRING ABOUT ISOLATION FROM INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY".

5. PRIME MINISTER REPLIED TO THIS LINE OF CRITICISM WITH BY NOW AUTOMATIC JUSTIFICATION OF ALL ROKG ACTIONS ON GROUND OF NATIONAL SECURITY AND SPECIAL PROBLEMS FACING ROK. MINISTER OF JUSTICE REMARKED THAT LAWYER KANG WAS ARRESTED BECAUSE HE HAD DEFAMED TRAIL JUDGE AND VIOLATED THE EMERGENCY MEASURES; NOT FOR ANY ACTION TAKEN IN DEFENSE OF HIS CLIENTS.

6. ASSEMBLYMAN CHANG ASKED ABOUT ROKG ALLEGED VIOLATION OF AGREEMENT WITH JAPAN ON KIM TAE-CHUNG CASE. THE PRIME MINISTER DENIED ANY SUCH VIOLATION AND SAID THAT HE HAD AGREED WITH GOJ TO CONDUCT INVESTIGATION INTO KIM'S ABDUCTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH ROK LAW AND WHEN COMPLETE TO NOTIFY JAPAN OF RESULTS. HE SAID THAT PRIME MINISTER TANAKA HAD BEEN INFORMED ONLY THAT KIN TAE-CHUNG WOULD HAVE THE SAME FREEDOM AS ANY ORDINARY CITIZEN OF THE ROK, THAT HE MUST BE QUALIFIED FOR A PASSPORT IF HE WISHED TO GO TO THE US, AND THAT SINCE COURT ACTION IS STILL PENDING AGAINST KIM NOTHING MORE CAN BE DONE AT THIS TIME.

7. GOVERNMENT ASSEMBLYMEN DID NOT RAISE QUESTION OF INTERNAL DISSENT BUT QUESTIONED GOVERNMENT ON THREAT FROM NORTH, ROK DEFENSE POSTURE, UN STRATEGY, AND
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POSSIBLE DISSOLUTION OF UNC AND WITHDRAWAL US FORCES. IN REPLY TO THIS LINE OF QUESTIONING FOREIGN MINISTER SAID THAT ROK WILL SEEK UNILATERAL MEMBERSHIP IN UN IF NORTH REJECTS OFFER OF SIMULTANEOUS ENTRY, AND THAT ROKG IS CONSULTING WIT ALLIES ON THIS. HE SAID THAT THE UNC MUST REMAIN UNTIL SOME MECHANISM IS CREATED TO ASSUME ITS ROLE, THAT US FORCES WILL NOT BE WITHDRAWN THIS YEAR BUT ROKG DOES NOT EXPECT THEM TO REMAIN FOREVER, AND THAT US HAS GIVEN NO INDICATION THAT IT WANTS JAPAN TO TAKE OVER SECURITY

ROLE IN KOREA.

8. AUGUST 9 ASSEMBLY WILL TAKE UP EDUCATION, INFORMATION,
SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND JUDICIARY COMMITTEE WILL CONSIDER
IN RESTRICTED SESSION NDP BILL FOR REPEAL EMERGENCY
MEASURES 1 AND 2. HIGHLIGHT OF REMAINING FLOOR SESSIONS
COULD BE POSSIBLE APPEARANCE OF NDP LEADERSHIP CONTENDER
KIM YOUNG-SAM, WHO AFTER ARGUMENT ON FLOOR WITH SPEAKER
CHONG WAS PROMISED CHANCE TO SPEAK ON "PERSONAL MATTER
AT THE RIGHT TIME." KIM HAS INDICATED DESIRE TO
BRING UP KCIA OBSTRUCTION OF HIS PRESS CONFERENCE
REPORTED REF C.
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